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18 August 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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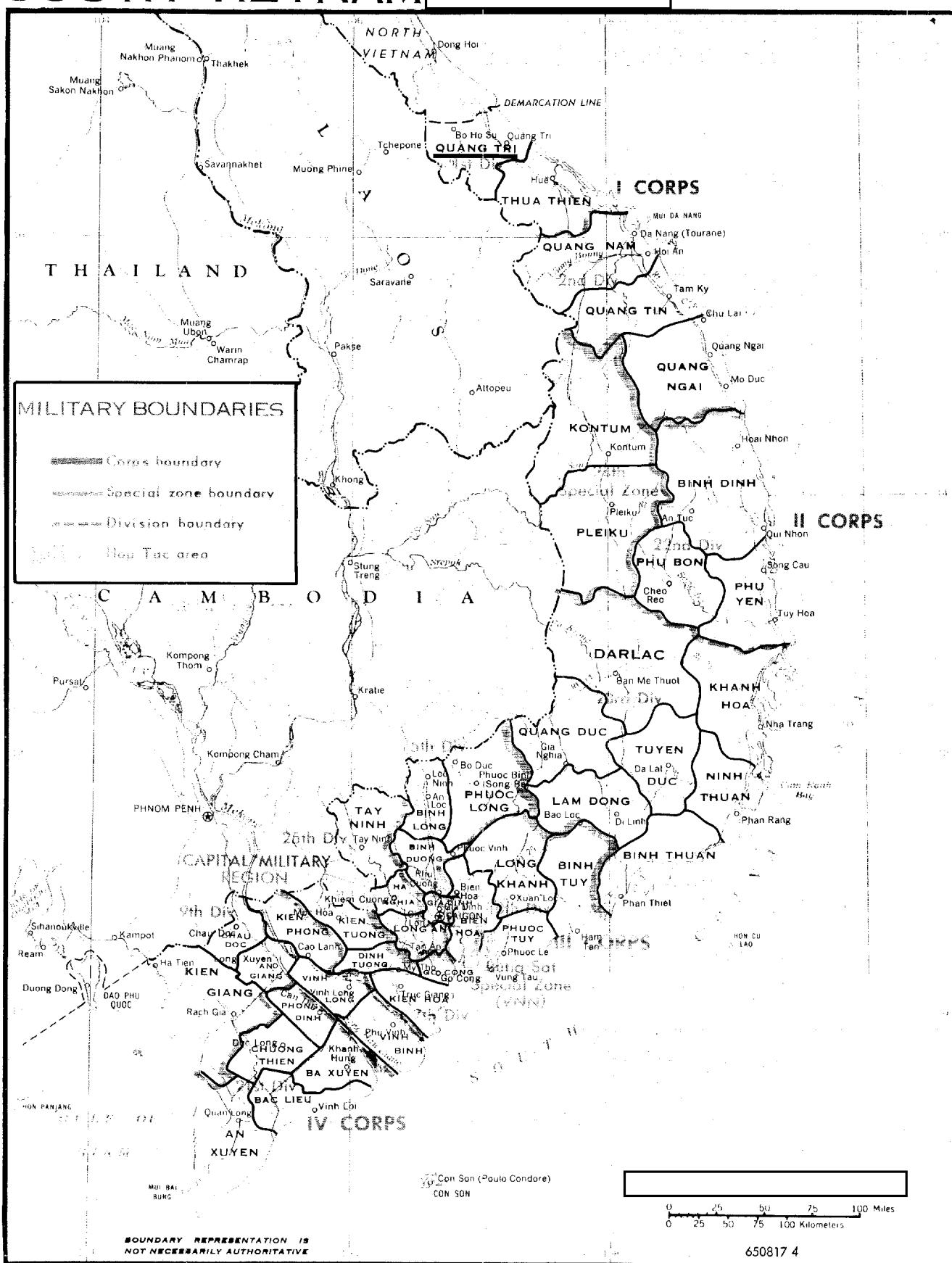
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SOUTH VIETNAM



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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Government ground forces following up the B-52 Stratofortress strike of 13 August in Quang Tri Province made contact yesterday with an estimated 200 Viet Cong. Official reports indicate that 71 Viet Cong have been killed and seven captured thus far as against government casualties of 11 wounded. Sizable quantities of food, arms and ammunition were also seized.

Small-scale Viet Cong harassment has also been reported at Duc Co in western Pleiku Province, at Da Nang air base where an infiltration attempt was repulsed, and at an outpost close to Saigon.

A group of 68 recent defectors to the government has reported that disillusionment and discontent are prevalent among Viet Cong ranks in the I Corps zone. The defectors also stated that their decisions to leave the Viet Cong were influenced by government psychological warfare operations involving the broadcasts of a former Viet Cong cadre who had defected previously.

US military authorities in Saigon report that last week's actions resulted in approximately 1,330 Viet Cong killed, the highest total during any single week of the war. A substantial part of these casualties resulted from two major government operations, including that at Duc Co. [redacted]

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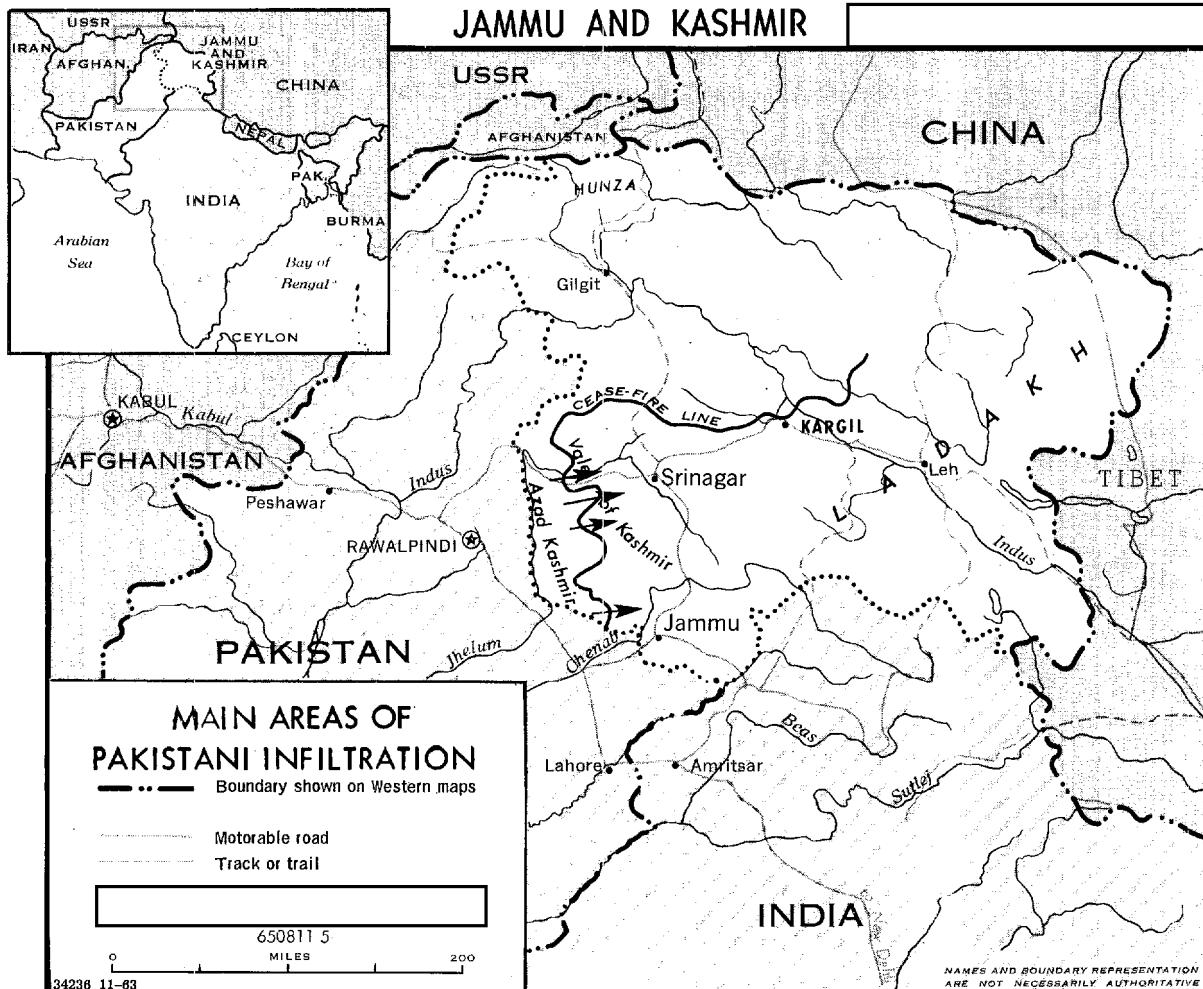
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Kashmir: Conflicting reports continue to cloud the situation along the Kashmir cease-fire line and inside Indian Kashmir.

India alleges that new infiltrations are occurring, but continues to claim that the situation is under control. Reports from Pakistan claim that "Kashmiri Freedom Fighters" are meeting with widespread success. Western observers recently in Srinagar, however, contend that there has been little disruption of security in the Vale.

Both sides agree that new clashes along the cease-fire line near Kargil have resulted in Indian reoccupation of several key posts on the Pakistani side of the line. These posts command India's sole road link between Srinagar and Ladakh and were occupied briefly by the Indians during the Rann of Kutch crisis in June.

[In a recent conversation with Ambassador Bowles] the chief of the Indian Army ^{has privately} expressed his concern that Pakistan, frustrated by the failure of the infiltration campaign to produce a revolt in Indian Kashmir, might take more direct action along the cease-fire line. He said that the Indian military had no desire for a war with Pakistan and he displayed considerable confidence that Shastri will be able to resist the strong pressures to teach Pakistan a lesson.

There are elements in the Indian Army who do not share the army chief's moderation and would like nothing better than an opportunity to square things with Pakistan. On the other hand, the expected political pressures on Shastri to retaliate do not appear to be building up as quickly as was expected. Some of the fringe opposition party groups are holding demonstrations and making belligerent noises. Among Congress Party legislators now assembled in New Delhi for a session of Parliament, however, the demands for strong countermeasures against Pakistan have thus far been limited and much less in evidence than during the Kutch crisis.

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Japan-Okinawa: Prime Minister Sato hopes that his visit to Okinawa on 19-21 August will help keep reversionist pressures under control.

Leftist opposition groups in Japan and Okinawa have stepped up demands for the Ryukyu archipelago's immediate reversion to Japan in this twentieth year of US control. Sato feels the need to satisfy sentiment for progress toward the eventual return of administrative rights to Japan, but also acknowledges the necessity for US bases on Okinawa. During his visit he will probably try to demonstrate Japan's continuing interest in reversion without pressing for it at this time.

The relatively moderate "Council for the Reversion of Okinawa Prefecture to Japan" is reportedly organizing a peaceful demonstration and parade with an unrealistic target of 100,000 participants. Left-wing extremists are calling for stronger action to protest Sato's visit as a prop to US retention of the islands, and they may spark some violence on his arrival.

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Dominican Republic: Caamano has called for formation of a "united democratic front" that would have the withdrawal of foreign troops as an immediate goal.

The rebel leader told a rally of 5,000 to 6,000 supporters that some rebel demands might not be satisfied through negotiations with the OAS. He urged the rebels to "consolidate and strengthen" themselves into an organization capable of achieving the revolution's fundamental objectives.

Caamano's speech seemed consistent with the line of the Dominican Communist Party, which has called for a front of Communist, leftist revolutionary, and democratic liberal parties. He repeated the party line that the US had intervened to protect the Dominican oligarchy so it could "continue exploiting the people."

*Meanwhile, rebel UN representative Ruben Brache has made a last-minute request for an indefinite postponement of the Security Council meeting scheduled for today. Earlier this week rebel foreign minister Jottin Cury had requested such a meeting, charging that the OAS was attempting to impose a solution and requesting the UN to intervene directly.

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NOTES

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Greece: [Supporters of a new government headed by former deputy premier Stephanopoulos and ex-interior minister Tsirimokos are still searching for the necessary parliamentary votes. Coordination Minister Mitsotakis, an influential centrist deputy and also a member of the former Papandreu government, has expressed a strong belief that the King will establish a dictatorship unless a solution is found soon. Pro-Papandreu demonstrations are continuing, and Papandreu says that this week end he will begin touring the countryside, where he is expected to repeat his demand for a mandate from the King or new elections.]

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